

Subject Extended foster care

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Overview

Youth who are in foster care immediately prior to turning 18 years of age and meet eligibility requirements may, if desired, receive foster care benefits past the age of 18, until age 21. These extended foster care benefits include foster care maintenance payments, case management services, and living in supervised independent living settings or traditional foster care settings.

This bill specifies that persons under age 26 who received foster care benefits past 18 years of age through extended foster care are eligible for medical assistance. The bill also modifies various provisions to allow for children for whom permanent legal and physical custody is transferred to a relative after age ten to be eligible for extended foster care benefits and reentry to foster care after age 18; modifies notice and independent living plan requirements; and adds transition programs through schools to extended foster care eligibility criteria.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Adults who were in foster care at the age of 18, 19, or 20.
Amends § 256B.055, subd. 17. Adds persons under 26 years of age who were receiving foster care benefits past 18 years of age to medical assistance coverage. |
| 2 | Notification.
Amends § 260C.451, subdivision 1. Modifies terminology to require notice about extended foster care eligibility for when a child turning 18 years old cannot be reasonably expected to return home or be adopted. |
| 3 | Definition.
Amends § 260C.451 by adding subd. 1a. Defines “child in foster care” to include a child for whom permanent legal and physical custody is transferred to a relative after the child is ten years of age. |

Section	Description
4	<p>Independent living plan.</p> <p>Amends § 260C.451, subd. 2. Requires the responsible social services agency to develop and update an independent living plan, with the child and other appropriate parties, for any child in foster care who is 14 years of age or older. Removes the language requiring development and updates only upon request. Makes additional clarifying changes.</p>
5	<p>Eligibility to continue in foster care.</p> <p>Amends § 260C.451, subd. 3. Removes clause (2), to allow a child to continue in foster care past age 18 if the child is in placement to meet their needs due to a developmental disability or related condition.</p>
6	<p>Eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Amends § 260C.451, subd. 3a. Adds transition programs through private or public schools to the conditions a child must meet to be eligible for extended foster care.</p>
7	<p>Reentering foster care and accessing services after 18 years of age and up to 21 years of age.</p> <p>Amends § 260C.451, subd. 6. Strikes language to allow an individual to request to reenter foster care after age 18 if the individual was in foster care for the six consecutive months prior to turning 18, or left foster care within six months prior to turning 18, and was received into a relative’s home under a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody.</p>
8	<p>Notice of termination of foster care.</p> <p>Amends § 260C.451, subd. 8. Requires the responsible social services agency to send a copy of the notice of termination of extended foster care to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Modifies terminology and references the personalized transition plan required under statute.</p>
9	<p>Scope; purpose.</p> <p>Amends § 260C.452, subd. 1. Allows a child to be considered “youth” for purposes of successful transition to adulthood services if the child left foster care due to a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative after age ten.</p>



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